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WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK FOR OREGON



U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY and STATE ENGINEER
of OREGON**

AS OF
OCT. 1, 1975

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

*Cover Photo: Cabins near Sacajawea Snow Course
in Bridger Mountains, Montana.*

SCS PHOTO 11-P480-15

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, West Technical Service Center, Room 111, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK FOR OREGON

and
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

Issued

OCTOBER 8, 1975

Issued by

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ADMINISTRATOR
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
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WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK FOR OREGON

October 1, 1975

As forecast last spring, Oregon water users experienced one of the best irrigation and water use seasons in recent years. Reports indicated almost all areas had excellent supplies. Only one area in the state, the South Fork of the Crooked River, experienced late season shortages.

The winter's snowpack was much above average and with a cool spring delaying the melt, the irrigation season was extended 3 to 5 weeks. Streams held up fairly well into the late season as August was cool and wet. Mountain soils have dried out to about normal conditions as of October 1 as September has been warm and dry.

Current reservoir storage in the major Oregon irrigation reservoirs exceeds the October 1 fifteen year average by 52%. This is slightly more than last year and indicates good water supply conditions for many water users next year.

Representative streamflow for this past spring and summer expressed as a per cent of average, versus the April 1 forecasts, is as follows:

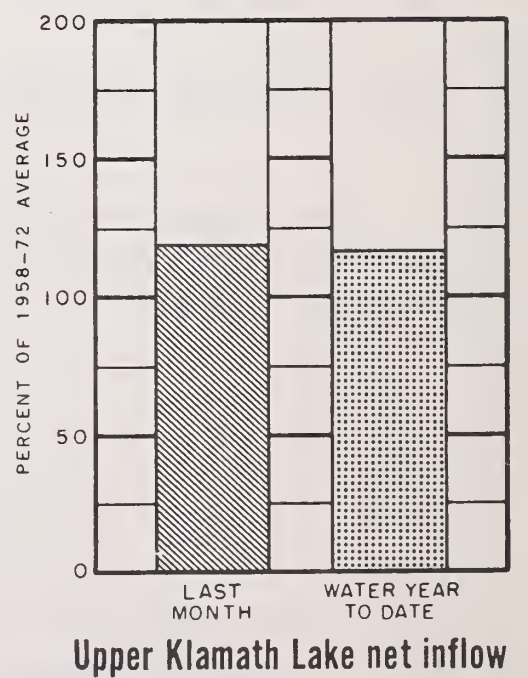
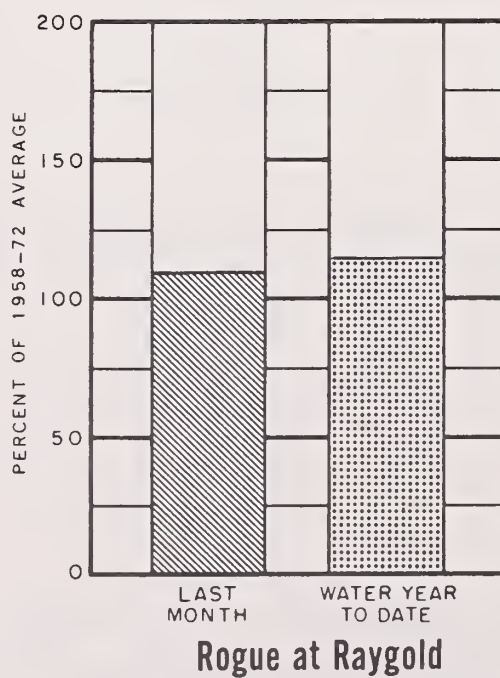
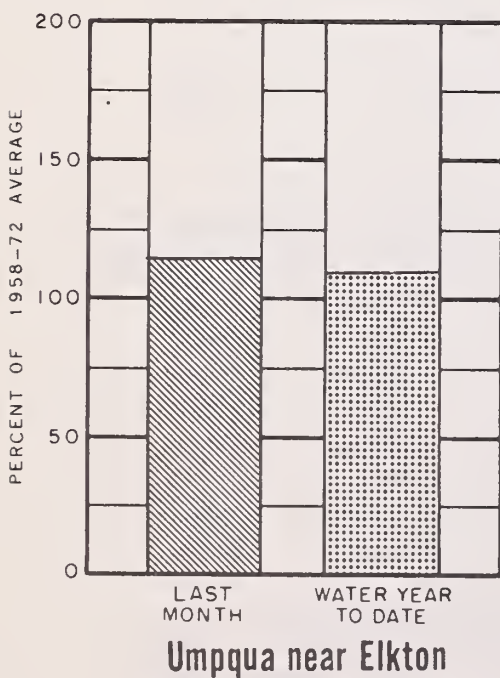
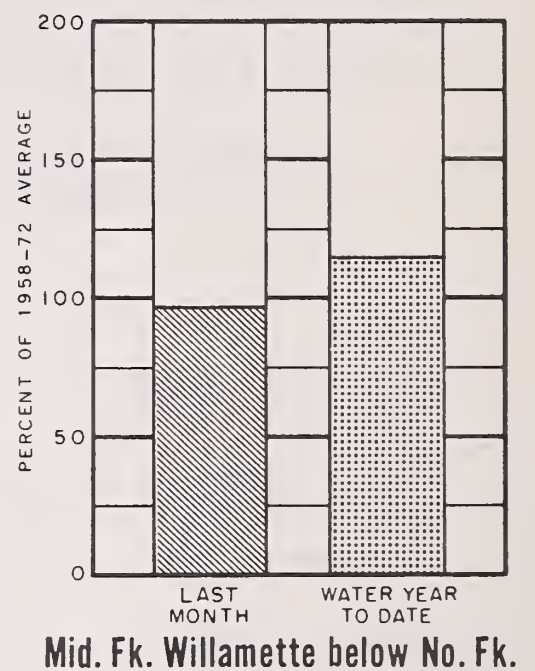
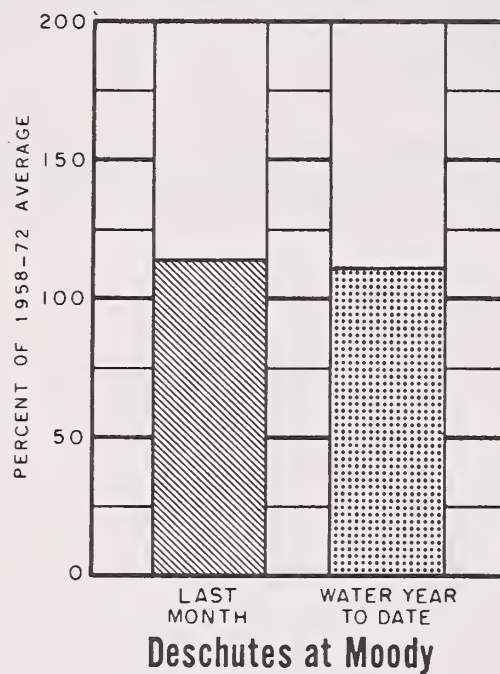
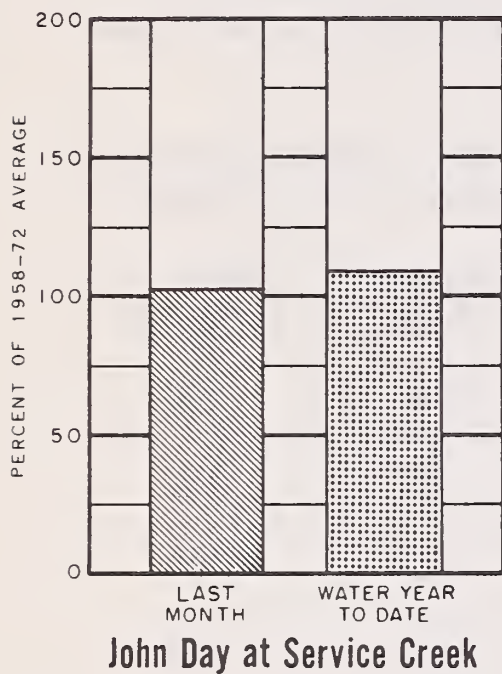
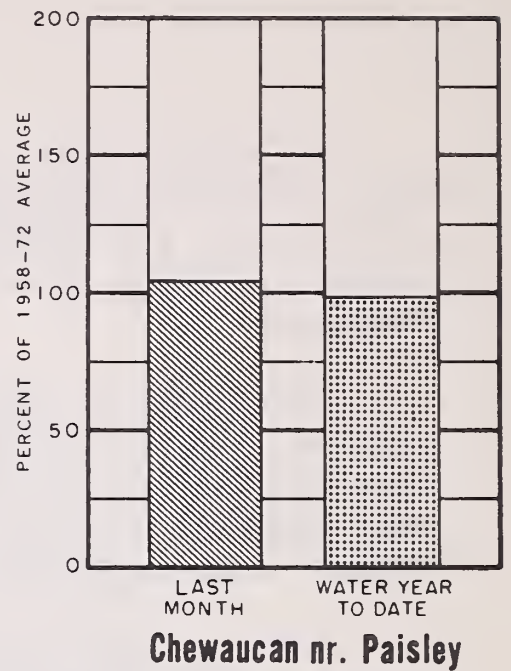
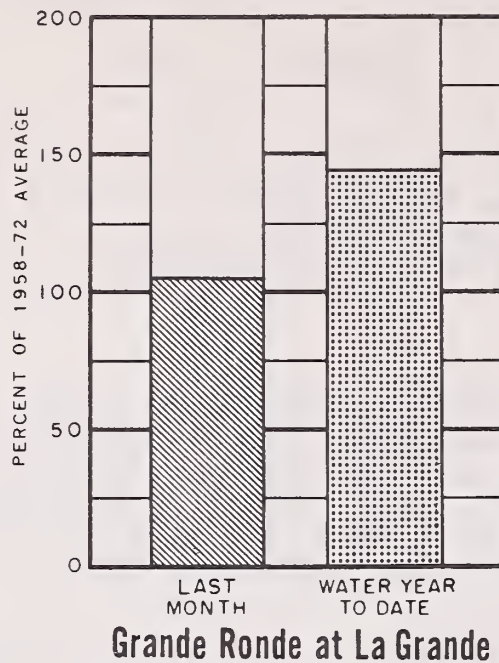
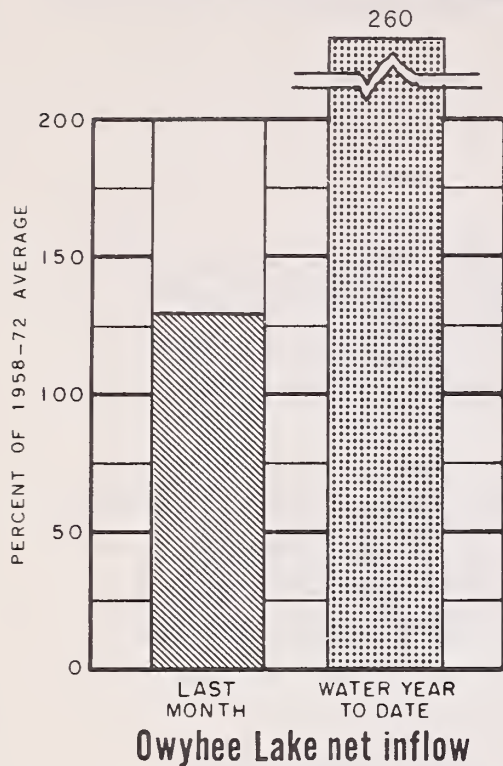
	<u>Period</u>	<u>Observed Flow</u>	<u>April 1 Forecast</u>
Owyhee net Inflow	April-Sept.	276	200
Grande Ronde at La Grande	April-Sept.	155	130
Willamette, Mid. Fk. blw, N. Fk.	April-Sept.	121	115
Rogue at Raygold	April-Sept.	136	127
Upper Klamath Lake	April-Sept.	138	138
Chewaucan near Paisley	April-Sept.	122	126

Providing an average snowpack accumulates this winter, and with the current excellent carry-over reservoir storage, next year's water supply outlook is good.

This report contains data furnished by the Oregon Water Resource Dept., U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA National Weather Service, and other co-operators.

CURRENT OREGON STREAMFLOW

OCTOBER 1, 1975



Data furnished by U.S. Geological Survey; The Pacific Power and Light Co.;
and North and South Boards of Control Owyhee Project.

STATUS OF RESERVOIR STORAGE, OCTOBER 1, 1975

RESERVOIR	USABLE CAPACITY (Thous. A.F.)	THOUSANDS ACRE FEET IN STORAGE ABOUT OCT. 1		
		1975	1974	15-Year Average 1958-72

UPPER COLUMBIA DRAINAGE

Antelope	70.0	<i>b</i>	--	7.1
Owyhee	715.0	506.7	384.0	320.6
Beulah Reservoir	60.0	9.2	14.1	8.3
Bully Creek	30.0	12.8	9.5	7.2
Warm Springs	191.0	116.9	108.0	50.7
Phillips Lake	73.5	<i>b</i>	50.1	--
Unity	25.2	5.4	4.8	2.2
Wallowa Lake	37.5	28.4	24.4	14.0

LOWER COLUMBIA DRAINAGE

Cold Springs	50.0	3.1	5.7	3.1
McKay	73.8	17.7	12.9	7.8
Ochoco	47.5	27.2	20.8	15.2
Prineville	153.0	105.2	103.7	100.3
Crane Prairie	55.3	31.8	33.3	19.9
Crescent Lake	86.9	64.3	66.0	33.6
Wickiup	200.0	117.8	127.4	42.3
Blue River	85.6	17.0	32.6	--
Cottage Grove	30.0	8.0	3.7	5.5
Cougar	155.2	85.1	87.5	86.2
Detroit	299.9	177.0	180.0	187.4
Dorena	70.5	25.6	27.4	11.9
Fall Creek	115.0	27.2	49.3	15.0
Fern Ridge	94.2	77.9	72.8	62.5
Foster	30.0	24.9	24.0	21.7
Green Peter	270.0	128.5	164.9	91.0
Hills Creek	200.0	99.8	121.5	110.7
Lookout Point	337.2	163.5	217.4	200.2
Timothy Lake	61.7	56.6	61.7	59.7

WEST COAST DRAINAGE

Fourmile Lake	16.1	13.8	8.7	6.0
Fish Lake	8.0	4.6	6.8	3.0
Howard Prairie	60.0	50.1	48.0	37.0
Hyatt Prairie	16.1	11.0	9.3	8.9
Emigrant Lake	39.0	9.4	4.6	8.8
Upper Klamath	584.0	384.4	420.6	315.9
Gerber	94.0	50.4	44.6	29.9
Clear Lake	440.2	289.2	281.1	165.5
Cottonwood	8.7	0.9	0.0	0.6
Drews	63.0	27.9	33.1	24.4

SOIL MOISTURE

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or STATION		Profile (Inches)		Date of Survey	Soil Moisture (Inches)		
Name	Elevation	Depth	Capacity		This Year	Last Year	Average ^a
OWYHEE, MALHEUR WATERSHEDS							
Bear Creek (Nev.)	7800	72	16.8	<i>b</i>			0.4
Big Bend (Nev.)	6700	48	16.7	9/25	10.7	12.5	13.2
Blue Mountain Spring	5900	42	16.9	9/26	5.4	4.9	5.8
Mud Flat (Ida.)	5500	48	12.8	<i>b</i>		--	9.3
Rodeo Flat (Nev.)	6800	42	11.0	9/25	3.0	4.8	7.4
Taylor Canyon (Nev.)	6200	48	15.1	9/25	8.2	8.6	10.2
BURNT, POWDER, PINE, GRANDE RONDE, IMNAHA WATERSHEDS							
Blue Mountain Summit	5100	36	16.8	9/29	8.4	--	7.8
Dooley Mountain	5430	36	9.2	9/29	2.4	--	2.9
Emigrant Springs	3925	48	22.3	9/23	15.4	13.0	12.3
Ladd Summit	3730	48	18.9	9/25	9.1	9.0	8.9
Moss Springs	5850	36	25.8	9/24	13.4	14.2	12.2
Tollgate	5070	48	23.6	9/23	9.2	--	13.9
UMATILLA, WALLA WALLA, WILLOW, ROCK, LOWER JOHN DAY WATERSHEDS							
Emigrant Springs	3925	48	22.3	9/23	15.4	13.0	12.3
Tollgate	5070	48	23.6	9/23	9.2	--	13.9
UPPER JOHN DAY WATERSHEDS							
Blue Mountain Spring	5900	42	16.9	9/26	5.4	4.9	5.8
Blue Mountain Summit	5100	36	16.8	9/29	8.4	--	7.8
Derr	5670	24	9.0	<i>b</i>		3.5	4.1
Marks Creek	4540	36	14.1	9/26	9.4	8.7	9.0
Snow Mountain	6300	48	16.7	9/26	10.8	--	10.1
Starr Ridge	5150	36	10.6	9/26	7.9	7.2	7.3
UPPER DESCHUTES, CROOKED WATERSHEDS							
Derr	5670	24	9.0	<i>b</i>			4.1
Marks Creek	4540	36	14.1	9/26	9.4	8.7	9.0
Snow Mountain	6300	48	16.7	9/26	10.8	--	10.1
KLAMATH WATERSHEDS							
Quartz Mountain	5230	48	15.3	9/24	5.4	5.0	5.5
LAKE COUNTY, GOOSE LAKE WATERSHEDS							
Camas Creek	5720	42	14.5	9/26	9.1	--	8.8
Quartz Mountain	5230	48	15.3	9/24	5.4	5.0	5.5
HARNEY BASIN WATERSHEDS							
Blue Mountain Spring	5900	42	16.9	9/26	5.4	4.9	5.8
Snow Mountain	6300	48	16.7	9/26	10.8	--	10.1
Starr Ridge	5150	36	10.6	9/26	7.9	7.2	7.3
Willow-Bald	5000	24	6.6	9/26	3.7	--	3.5

(a) 1958-72, 15 year average. (b) No report.

The Following Organizations Cooperate in the Oregon Snow Survey Work

STATE

- Idaho Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Oregon State University
- Oregon State Engineer and Corps of State Watermasters
- Oregon State Highway Engineers
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Oregon

COUNTY

- Douglas County Water Resources Survey

FEDERAL

- Department of Agriculture
 - Cooperative Extension Service
 - Forest Service
 - Soil Conservation Service
- Department of Commerce
 - NOAA, National Weather Service
- Department of the Interior
 - Bonneville Power Administration
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Geological Survey
 - National Park Service
- Department of National Defense
 - Corps of Army Engineers

PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Pacific Power and Light Company
- Portland General Electric Company
- California-Pacific Utilities Company

MUNICIPALITIES

- City of Baker
- City of La Grande
- City of The Dalles
- City of Walla Walla

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

- Arnold Irrigation District
- Associated Ditch Companies
- Burnt River Irrigation District
- Central Oregon Irrigation District
- East Fork Irrigation District
- Grants Pass Irrigation District
- Hood River Irrigation District
- Jordan Valley Irrigation District
- Juniper Flat Irrigation District
- Lakeview Water Users, Incorporated
- Medford Irrigation District
- Middle Fork Irrigation District
- North Board of Control - Owyhee Project
- North Unit Irrigation District
- Ochoco Irrigation District
- Rogue River Valley Irrigation District
- South Board of Control - Owyhee Project
- Squaw Creek Irrigation District
- Talent Irrigation District
- Tumalo Project
- Vale-Oregon Irrigation District
- Warm Springs Irrigation District

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

- The Crag Rats, Hood River, Oregon

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

1218 S.W. WASHINGTON ST.
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

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water supply for irrigation,
domestic and municipal water
supply, hydro-electric power
generation, navigation,
mining and industry

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with the Snow Survey"*

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